Subsidy on fertilizers

1290. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "Joshi opposes Sinha's claim on fertilizer subsidy" which appeared in the daily Financial Express, New Delhi, dated January 30, 1991, wherein Shri Sharad Joshi, Chairman of the Standing Advisory Committee on Agriculture (SAC) has claimed that fertilizer subsidy does not benefit any farmers, small or big;

(b) whether Chairman of the Standing Advisory Committee on Agriculture has been apprised of the NCAER study which mantions that 30 per cent of big farmers owning 70 per cent cultivable area availed 70 per cent targetted food subsidies (NCAER Seminar Study, 1980);

(c) since the prices of fertilizer are administered ones, does the Chairman, SAC, opine that these prices are not set properly which encourage only "inefficiency";

(d) whether any attempt has been made to compare international norms, derated to Indian operating conditions, in the cost of production of fertilisers at typical international locations vis-a-vis Indian plants; if so, the details of the findings; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to reduce the food subisdy to manageable levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chairman of the Standing Advisery Committee on Agriculture was aware of the findings of NCAER study. However, NCAER findings have little bearing on the views of Standing Advisory Committee on Agriculture.

(c) No, Sir. However, the Standing Advisory Committee have absered that there is a need for promoting cost effectiveness, particularly as regards the capital structure.

(d) No such study has been undertaken. However, the Planning Commission appraises all projects in the Central Public Sector including their economic viability.

(e) Food Corporation of India (FCI) have been taking various measures, like reduction in staff strength, reduction in transit losses and storage losses, etc., to reduce their operational costs, which will help in reducing food subsidy.

Success in dry land farming in Karnataka

1291. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "Karnataka's success story in dryland farming" which appeared in the daily 'Financial Express' dated the 12th January, 1991, mentioning that the watershed programme had resulted among other things in raising yields of major crops, increasing availability of fodder and improving groundwater levels;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to replicate the programme as a National Programme through setting up an apex Dryland Development Board; and

(c) if answer to the part (b) above be in the negetive the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the light of the experiences gained in Karnataka and in other states in the VIIth Five Year Plan and in consonance with the recommendations of the Working Group constituted by the Planning Commission for formulation of VIIIth Five Year Plan on rainfed agricul-

[Shri Jayantilal Virchand Bhai]

ture, the re-structured National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) is being implemented on watershed basis in selected community development blocks of the country where less than 30 per cent arable area is under assured means of irrigation. The project endeavours to achieve the twin objectives of sustainable production of biomass and restoration of ecological balance in the vast rainfed areas. The project is being implemented by the State Governments through appropriate administrative mechanism involving people's participation.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2.30 for lunch.

The House then adjourned for lunch at nine minutes past eleven of the clock.

[The House reassembled after luncr at thirty minutes past two of the clock, The **Deputy Chairman** in the Chair].

Reg. strike in the Jute Mills in West Bengal

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन (पश्चिमी बंगाल) महोदया, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आज 11 मार्च, है और आज पश्चिम बंगाल की तमाम जूट मिलों में एक दिन की हड़ताल हो गई और यह हड़ताल तमाम यूनियनों की मुश्तरका पुकार पर हुई है। इनकी चार मांगें हैं–एक तो यह है कि चटकल इंडस्ट्री को नेशनेलाइज़ किया जाए, दूसरी मांग यह है कि जिन कारखानों में मजदूरों को कम उजरत मिल रही है और जो कारखाने बदइंतजामी के कारण बंद हो रहें हैं या जिन्होंने प्रोविडेंट फंड का रूपया जमा नहीं किया और ग्रेच्युटी नहीं दे रहे हैं, उनका इंतजाम सरकार अपने हाथ में ले ले··· (व्यवधान) उनकी मांग यह भी है कि 1987 के गवर्नमेंट आर्डर को इम्प्लीमेंट किया जाए··· (व्यवधान)

†[شری محمد امین: (پچھمی بنگال) میں یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ آج ۱۱ مارچ ہے اور آج پشچمی بنگال کی تمام جوٹ ملوں میں ایک دن کی ہڑتال ہو گئی اور یہ ہڑتال تمام یونینوں کی مشترکہ پکار پر ہوئی ہے - انکی چار مانگیں ہیں - ایک تو یہ ہے کہ چٹکل انڈسٹری کو نیشنلائز کیا جائے - دوسری مانگ یہ ہے کہ جن کارخانوں میں مزدوروں کو کم اجرت مل رہی ہے اور جو کارخانے بد انتظامی کے کارن بند ہو رہے ہیں یا جنہوں نے پراویڈنٹ فنڈ کا روپیہ جمع نہیں کیا اور گریچیوٹی نہیں دے رہے ہیں انکا انتظام سرکار اپنے ہاتھ میں لے لے .... (مداخلت) .... انکی ایک مانگ یہ بھی ہے کہ ۱۹۸۷ کے گورنمنٹ آرڈر کو امپلیمنٹ کیا جائے .... (مداخلت)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not know. He wants to say something about his grievances.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Gujarat): We have also got grievances.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Welcome. Everybody's grievance can be heard by the Chair. I have no objection. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, the strike has been called by all the trade unions including the INTUC. Therefore, it is not a party question. All the jute workers are going on strike. It is to save the jute industry of West Bengal which is in a terrible crisis. It is for saving the jute industry of West Bengal that the workers have gone on strike. We are only drawing the attention of the Government because it is still there.

†Transliteration in Arabic script.